



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Okanogan -Wenatchee  
National Forest  
Cle Elum Ranger District

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Cle Elum, WA 98922  
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**File Code:** 1950

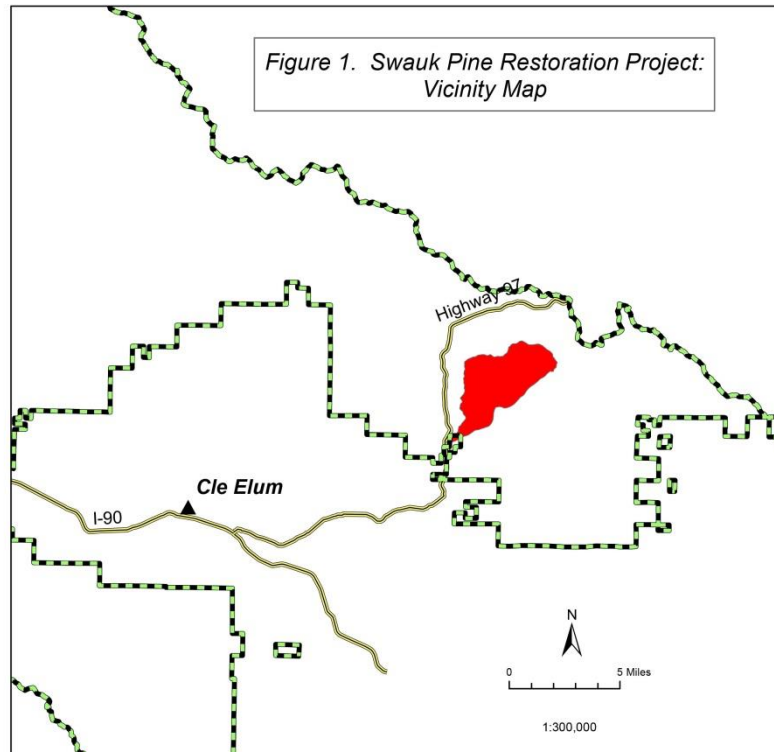
**Date:** March 28, 2014

Greetings.

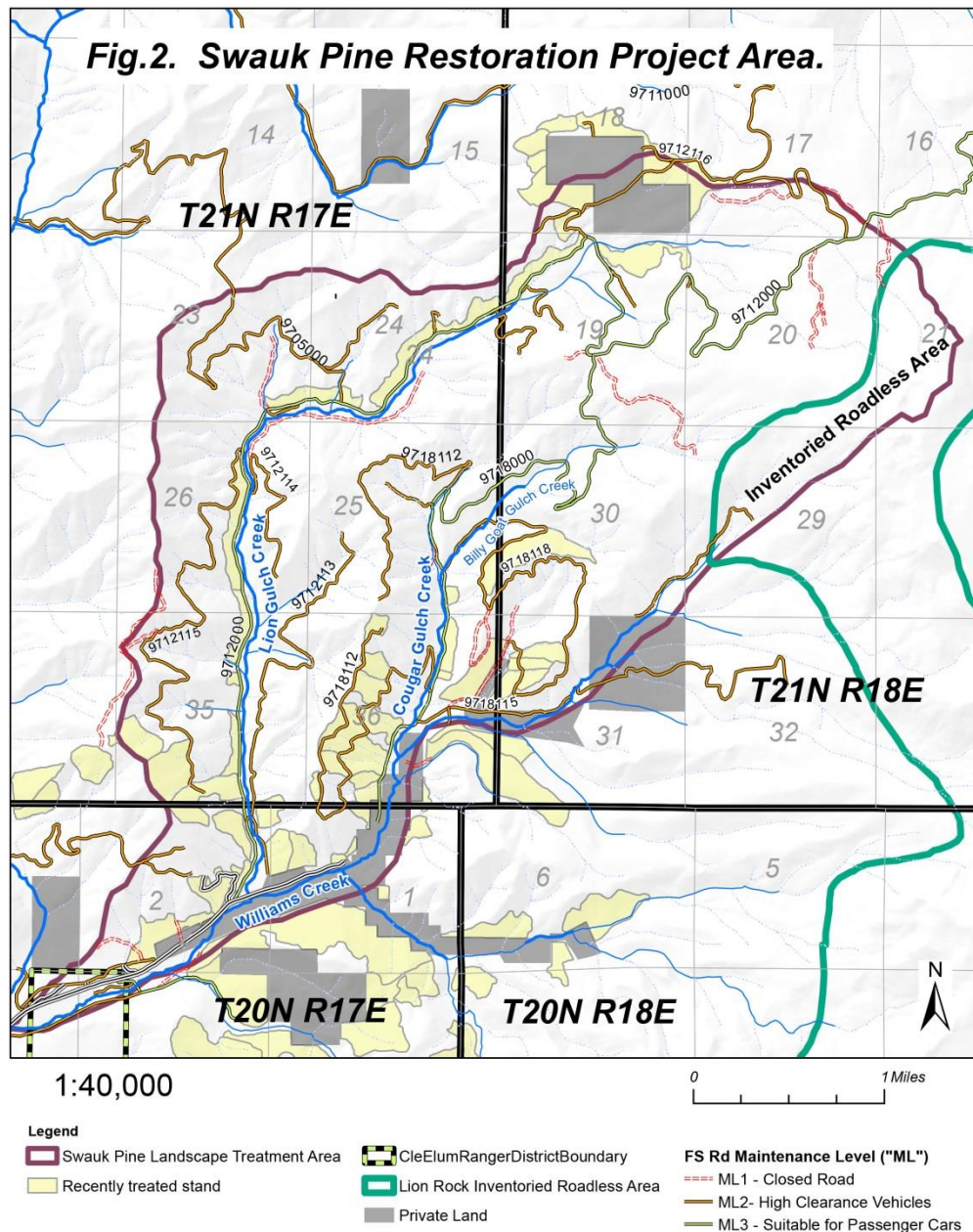
The Forest Service invites you to comment on the proposed Swauk Pine Restoration Project on the Cle Elum Ranger District, and to share any knowledge of the area that you may have with the Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) that is planning this project. The purpose of this project is to improve landscape level resilience to fire and other disturbances and to restore hydrologic processes that have been degraded by roads, trails, and past management actions. The proposed action includes silvicultural treatments (thinning and burning), treatment of invasive species using herbicides, site-specific riparian restoration actions, road improvements, road relocation, and multiple road closures. Instructions for commenting are at the end of this letter.

**Background Information:** The Swauk Pine planning area (6589 acres) is located in Swauk Creek watershed, Kittitas County, Washington (Fig. 1). It encompasses all or parts of the Williams Creek, Cougar Gulch, Lion Gulch, and Billie Goat Gulch subdrainages (Fig. 2). The area is bounded by the townsite of Liberty, Washington on the south side, Swauk Ridge on the west side, Liberty Mountain Home site on the north side, and Williams Creek on the east side. The legal description is

Secs. 23-26, 35, and 36, T. 21 N., R. 17 E.;  
Secs. 17-21, and 29-32, T. 21 N., R. 18 E.; and  
Secs. 1 and 2, T. 20 N., R 17 E., W.M.



CleElumRangerDistrictBoundary  
Swauk Pine Restoration Project Area



Access to the project area is via Hwy 97 and Forest Service arterial roads 9705, 9712, and 9718. The project area has a long history of timber harvest, gold mining, and livestock grazing, and is now heavily used for motorized recreation, dispersed camping, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and mining. An active sheep grazing allotment overlaps the planning area. It is also heavily used in winter for snowmobiling, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.

The Project Area provides habitat for a number of threatened endangered species, including northern spotted owl, gray wolf, and steelhead. It is part of the North Cascades Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone. It encompasses designated critical habitat for steelhead and northern spotted owl, as well as Essential Fish Habitat for steelhead.

The entire planning area is located in the Swauk Late Successional Reserve (LSR), where management emphasis is on the creation and maintenance of late successional habitat, particularly the dense late

successional forests used by northern spotted owls. In the early 1990s, this LSR supported one of the densest known populations of spotted owls in the Pacific Northwest, but owl numbers have declined steeply over the last two decades, in spite of the protections afforded by LSR status. This area is also one of six in Washington and Oregon selected by the Forest Service for long-term spotted owl demography study. Resident spotted owls have been intensively studied here since 1989, and all known owls are banded.

In the dry forests on the east slope of the Cascade Mountains, the dense multi-layered forest structure favored by owls is likely to burn with high fire intensity, and the entire landscape in and around this planning area is increasingly at risk to severe, large-scale disturbances due to wildfire, insects, and disease. A recent prolonged and widespread outbreak of spruce budworm, and the nearby Table Mountain Fire of 2012 (which overlapped a small part of this planning area), provide stark reminders of growing risk.

### **Purpose and Need for Action**

A landscape level analysis comparing historic and current forest conditions in the Planning Area was completed in 2013. Our analysis of “departures from historic conditions” revealed that one type of forest structure (“young forest multi-story”) is far more abundant across the landscape today than it was historically, and that two stand characteristics—patch size and patch density—are also highly departed. Patch sizes have become much smaller, and there are many more patches across the landscape today than existed historically. As a result, there is currently a high amount of “edge” and a high likelihood of fire spread from patch to patch. Fire modeling also indicates a high potential for fire spread into and out of high value spotted owl habitat, due to running crown fire (when fire spreads through the canopy of trees, rather than on the ground).

The Swauk Pine area would be more resilient to fire, as well as insects and disease outbreaks, if there were more and larger patches of open forest structure dominated by large old trees (natural fuel breaks historically created and maintained by frequent fire). Dense old forest should be arranged in larger patches in areas less prone to frequent burning—moist and mesic sites on northerly slopes and valley bottoms. The resulting forest mosaic would burn with mixed fire severity (the historic fire regime) that is both self-perpetuating and less likely to consume the entire landscape in one catastrophic event.

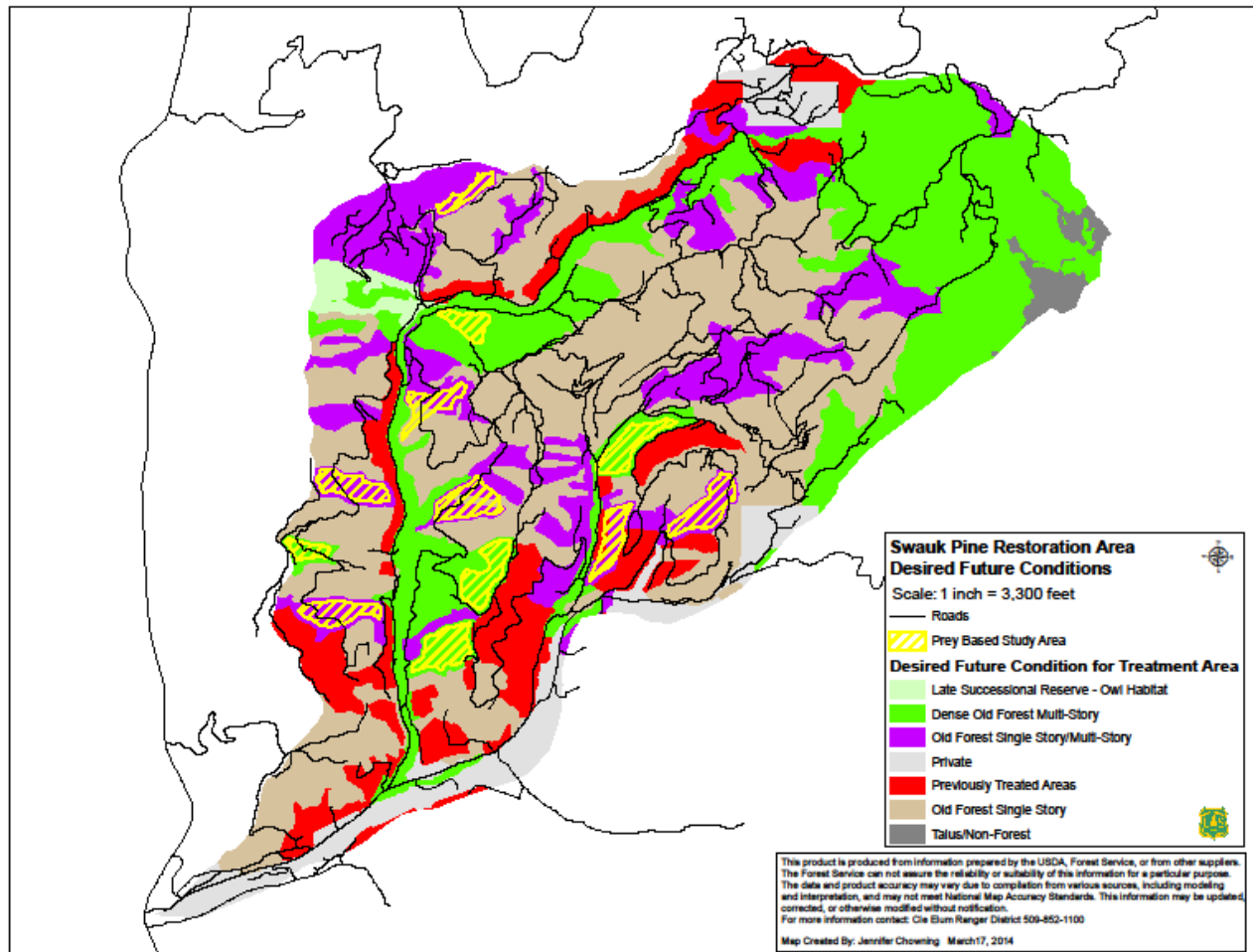
The challenge here is to rearrange the current forest mosaic by creating larger patches of both open and dense forest structure on a landscape scale, while also meeting current management direction for LSRs, and recovery needs for spotted owls. A more resilient landscape would be beneficial to all, because wildfire is inevitable here. The Final Revised Spotted Owl Recovery Plan (USDI 2011) recognizes this fact, and among other things, focuses on: *conserving known spotted owl sites and high value owl habitat, along with use of “ecological forestry” (active forest restoration) to meet the challenges of climate change and altered ecological processes.* The Recovery Plan cites the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Restoration Strategy (Gaines et al. 2010) as an example of a site-specific plan for ecological restoration that applies many of the concepts of the Recovery Plan, and is applicable even in LSRs.

The Swauk Pine Restoration Project is the first application of the Forest Restoration Strategy on an owl-rich landscape in a Late Successional Reserve designed to support a “source” (self-sustaining) population of spotted owls.

After analyzing the various ways that this landscape has changed, defining the desired future landscape condition (“DFC”) was an important step here to ensure that any proposed treatments would begin moving both landscape and stand-scale characteristics closer to the historic range of variation (a sustainable condition). After modeling several different landscape scenarios with different levels of spotted owl habitat retention, the Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) identified one scenario that responded to all of the identified needs for the Swauk Pine planning area (reduced overall amount of small diameter dense forest, larger patch sizes, smaller patch densities, protection of existing high value spotted owl

habitat, and restoration of owl habitat on appropriate sites (Fig. 3). This DFC provides the basis for proposed silvicultural treatments under the Swauk Pine Restoration Project.

Fig. 3. The Desired Future Condition (DFC) for the Swauk Pine Landscape



Forest vegetation and owl habitat are not the only resources being affected by altered ecological processes in the Swauk Pine planning area. Our landscape analysis also included an assessment of riparian conditions, and the interaction of streams and roads. We documented more than 50 locations on this landscape where roads (system and unauthorized) impinge upon floodplains, limiting channel migration, the recruitment of large wood, and shallow ground water storage across floodplains, or where road design is causing water quality problems and degradation of fish habitat. These conditions are inconsistent with objectives of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy (Forest Management direction), and are detrimental to fish, including steelhead, a threatened species. Problems are likely to worsen given declining Forest Service road maintenance budgets, and increasingly deferred maintenance on all but the most heavily used roads. There is a need here for a smaller transportation system (commensurate with road maintenance budgets), that provides access for short- and long-term vegetation management needs, and that does not impair water quality or impede natural hydrologic processes, such as channel migration and flooding, groundwater recharge and storage, and recruitment of large wood into stream channels. This wood is important for dissipating the energy of floodwaters, and reducing impacts from floods to downstream landowners.

To restore natural hydrologic processes, reduce the size of the road system, and create a more resilient forest mosaic, the Forest Service proposes silvicultural treatments (mechanical thinning and prescribed burning), site-specific riparian restoration projects, and changes to the Forest Road system.

Objectives for silvicultural treatments include:

- interrupt fire flow paths to better protect areas of moist late successional forest, including current and future northern spotted owl habitat.
- Protect and conserve existing high value owl habitat, and culture future habitat for the northern spotted owl on appropriate forest sites.
- reduce the over-abundance of small diameter dense forest, and culture larger patches of open forest dominated by large trees;
- increase the distance between patches of moderate and high running crown fire risk using commercial thinning and a variety of fuel reduction techniques.
- re-introduce fire to restore forest processes dependent on fire, and help re-establish a mixed severity fire regime.
- Maintain fine-scale (within stand) forest diversity using variable density thinning techniques and retention of clumps and gaps;
- Retain all old trees as defined by Van Pelt, and large trees as needed to meet or exceed current Forest Policy (citation);
- provide forest products at an acceptable ecological and economic scale. The project is located in the Tapash Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) and as such, under Public Law 111-11, 2009, is designed to ramp up the scale of management activities, leverage funds, reduce wildfire costs with fuel treatments, and “encourage the use of forest restoration byproducts that can offset treatment costs while benefitting local economies and improving forest health”.
- Conduct experimental treatments to study and demonstrate how different commercial thinning densities and down wood retention patterns affect northern spotted owl prey base populations.

Objectives for Aquatic and Soil Restoration and Road Management include;

- restore and protect hydrologic functions and processes, water quality, and aquatic habitats impaired by Forest Service system roads, off-highway vehicle (OHV) use, and dispersed camping. Meeting this objective will require road management actions (including some road reconstruction, relocation, restoration of effective road closures and new road closures), elimination of skid trails temporary logging roads, site-specific soil restoration, relocation of some 4X4 trails, restoration of unauthorized routes, and redesign or relocation of some dispersed recreation sites.
- reduce the network of open roads that can be affordably maintained to meet public access needs.

## ***Proposed Action***

### ***Silvicultural Treatments***

The Forest Service proposes mechanized thinning and fuel reduction treatments as described in Table 1, and mapped in Fig. 4 (next page).

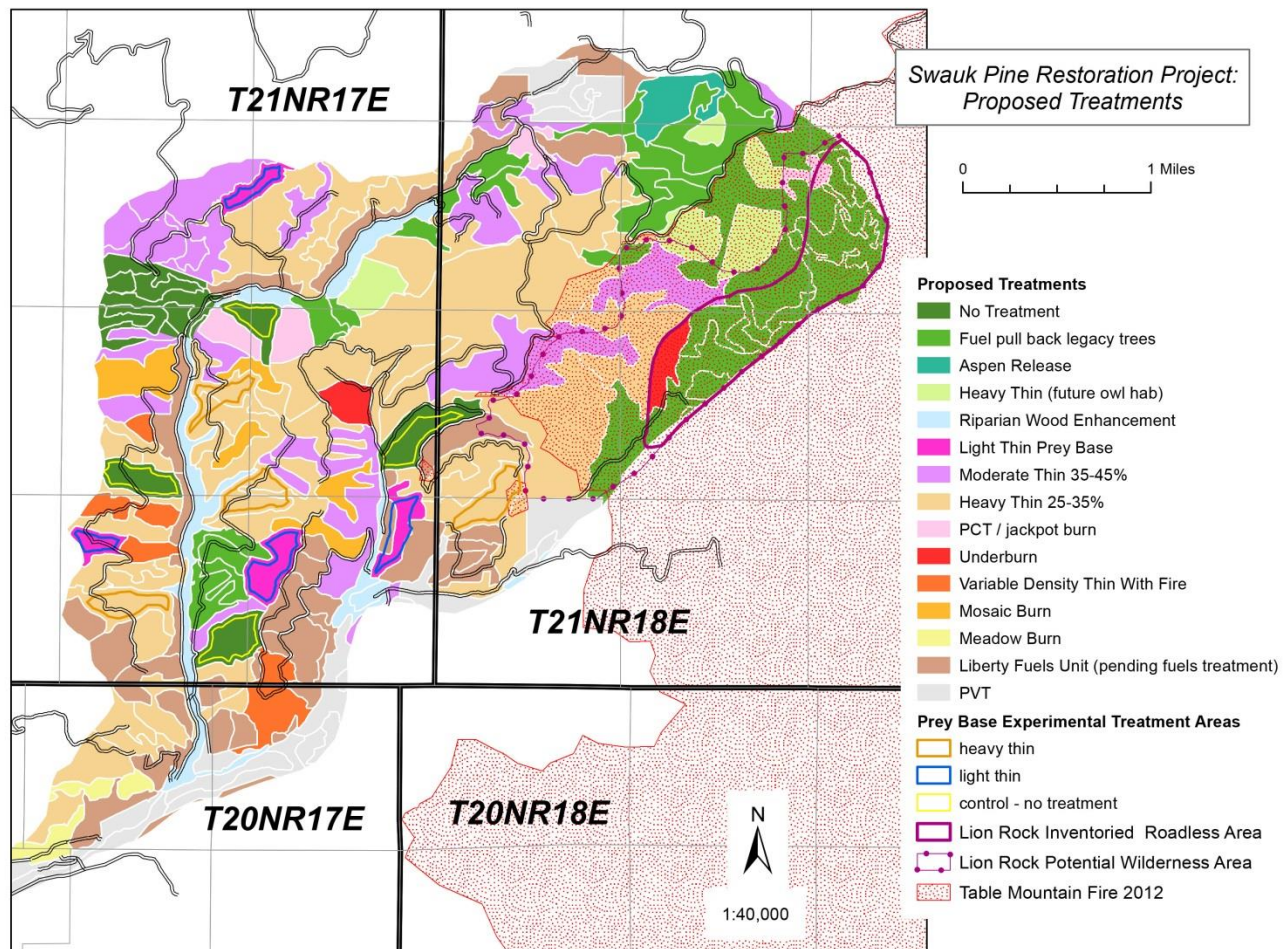
**Table 1. Proposed silvicultural treatments for the Swauk Pine Restoration Project**

Silvicultural Treatments	Acres
Aspen Release	64
Fuel Reduction Around Legacy Trees (hand-pile, and burn some but not all piles). (DFC is dense multi-layered old forest with large amounts of dead and down)	1052
Heavy Thin (plantation in future owl habitat - restore appropriate species composition)	181
Heavy Thin and underburn to 30--35% average overall canopy with single storied structure.	2102
Light Thin (for Prey Base Study)	131
Meadow Burn to reduce conifer encroachment	57
Moderate Thin and underburn to 35-45% overall canopy (vary by slope position)	825
Mosaic Underburn	145
No Treatment (at DFC or Prey Base Study Control Unit)	319
PCT / jackpot burn	100
Riparian Wood Enhancement	217
Underburn	66
Variable Density Thin With Fire	134
Grand Total	5392

In areas where an open forest condition is desired (tan areas in Fig. 3, generally the driest stands dominated by ponderosa pine. This category includes some dry meadows and scree slopes with conifer tree encroachment), treatments include commercial thinning and/or underburning with low intensity fire. Trees would be removed from the lower and middle forest canopy layers. . Post thinning and burning crown closures would *average* 30- 35%, including riparian reserves, clumps, and set aside areas. An objective for all treatments is to protect all existing old tree structure and the largest available trees in each stand. Large trees would be retained at levels that meet or exceed current Forest Policy. Snags and down wood be retained at levels that exceed current Forest Plan standards and guidelines, based on the best available science presented in the Forest-wide Late Successional Reserve Assessment (Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest 1997).



**Fig. 4. Proposed silvicultural treatments in the Swauk Pine planning area.**



Both cable and ground based harvest systems would be used, depending on topography. Mechanical tree felling with machinery, where compatible with soil types and seasonality of harvest, may be used on slopes > 35%.

Felled trees (for sawlogs or biomass) would be yarded as whole trees to landings. Treatment of activity fuels would entail any or all of the following actions: hand-piling and burning, machine-piling and burning (where compatible with soil objectives), chipping, mastication, and removal as firewood either commercially or by the public. Removal of firewood may entail end hauling of biomass and firewood from the project area to public firewood cutting areas.

A combination of these fuel treatment methods may be used depending on market conditions and capabilities of the successful bidder for biomass contracts or firewood removal contracts.

The proposed action also includes a second maintenance burn that would occur 10-15 years following initial underburning, to reduce fine fuels and extend the effects of initial treatments.

Connected actions for timber harvest would include

- construction of temporary roads (9.7 miles) and “design” temporary roads (3.4 miles) for access to harvest areas (Fig. 7). Following harvest, all temporary roads would be decommissioned

according to Forest Policy. Some closed Forest Service system roads would also be used and reclosed after harvest.

Temporary road needs displayed in Fig. 7 are known needs at this time. Additional temporary roads may be needed once all the harvest systems are completely field validated.

- Reconstruction of Forest Service system roads to be used as haul routes;
- Permanent relocation of FS Rd 9718112 from a riparian reserve to a different location more suitable for timber haul;
- Hazard tree removal along all haul routes.
- Spot rocking and development of existing rock sources in the project area for use on haul routes;
- Use of seeding, fertilizer, and herbicides hand applied on roadside areas such as landings to re-establish native vegetation.
- Abatement of log haul related dust with soil hydration chemicals on haul routes.
- Treatments for the prevention and control of invasive species, include use of herbicides; .
- Acquisition of road use permits to cross private land, where needed for timber sale access or timber haul.

A connected action for underburning would include construction of firelines. Firelines would be rehabilitated as part of mop-up operations for the initial underburns, and for the subsequent maintenance burn.

In areas where dense multi-layered old forest is desired (green areas in Fig. 3, generally stands on moist sites with a high component of shade tolerant grand fir), treatments in old and mature stands would include protection of legacy trees (large old ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir) by hand-pulling fuels away from their bases (no removal of understory or overstory trees) and burning some but not all of the resulting piles. Even aged plantations may be thinned precommercially or as biomass to restore appropriate trees species, accelerate growth of large trees, and introduce structural diversity in developing stands. Tree planting may be used as a tool to restore species composition in “off-site” ponderosa pine plantations.

In areas where moderate forest canopy is desired (purple areas in Fig. 3, generally stands growing on dry and seasonally moist sites), thinning would be designed to maintain denser overall canopy and multi-layered stand structure on lower and mid-slope positions, and more open canopies and single storied stand structure on ridgelines and upper slopes (Compare Figs. 5 and 6 below). Commercial thinning prescriptions will be focused on thinning from below and from mid story crown positions, with a focus on thinning smaller trees. Post thinning and burning crown closures would *average* 35-45%, including riparian reserves, clumps, and set aside areas. The treatment of these polygons could contribute to protection of the green mapped polygons.





Figure 5. Example of moderate canopy DFC, with mixed ages of trees, desired for lower slopes.



Figure 6. Example of moderate canopy DFC (single storied stand) for upper slopes and ridelines.

### ***Treatments with Potential Wilderness Area and Inventoried Roadless Area***

The proposed action includes treatments (594 acres of mechanical thinning and underburning) in the Lion Rock Potential Wilderness Area (PWA), outside of the Lion Rock Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA). This part of the PWA currently encompasses motorized recreation trails, open mainline travel routes, unauthorized routes, active mining claims, and historic clearcuts. It is not recommended for wilderness inclusion under the proposed action for Forest Plan revision for the Okanogan-Wenatchee and Colville National Forests (Draft EIS in preparation).

The proposed action also includes 33 acres of treatment (prescribed underburning) in the Lion Rock IRA. The only mechanical removal of trees would be for fireline construction, and tree removal would be minimized by utilizing natural openings as burn boundaries. This area is not recommended for wilderness inclusion under the proposed action for Forest Plan revision.

### ***Prey Base Study***

The Swauk Pine project includes a prey base study to examine how different intensities of thinning and down wood retention affect the small mammal prey base of the northern spotted owl. This research is being conducted by the PNW Forest Sciences Lab in Wenatchee, Washington. Three replicates would be employed; including

**No Treatment Stands-** These are control stands for studying prey base populations, tree removal would not occur in these polygons; passive fire in these stands could be allowed (Figure 2).

**Light Treatment Stands-** These stands would be lightly thinned to 40-50% crown closure. Fuels would be treated with light creeping ground fire or hand piling and burning, or jackpot burning. Prey base structures such as mistletoe would be managed for retention.

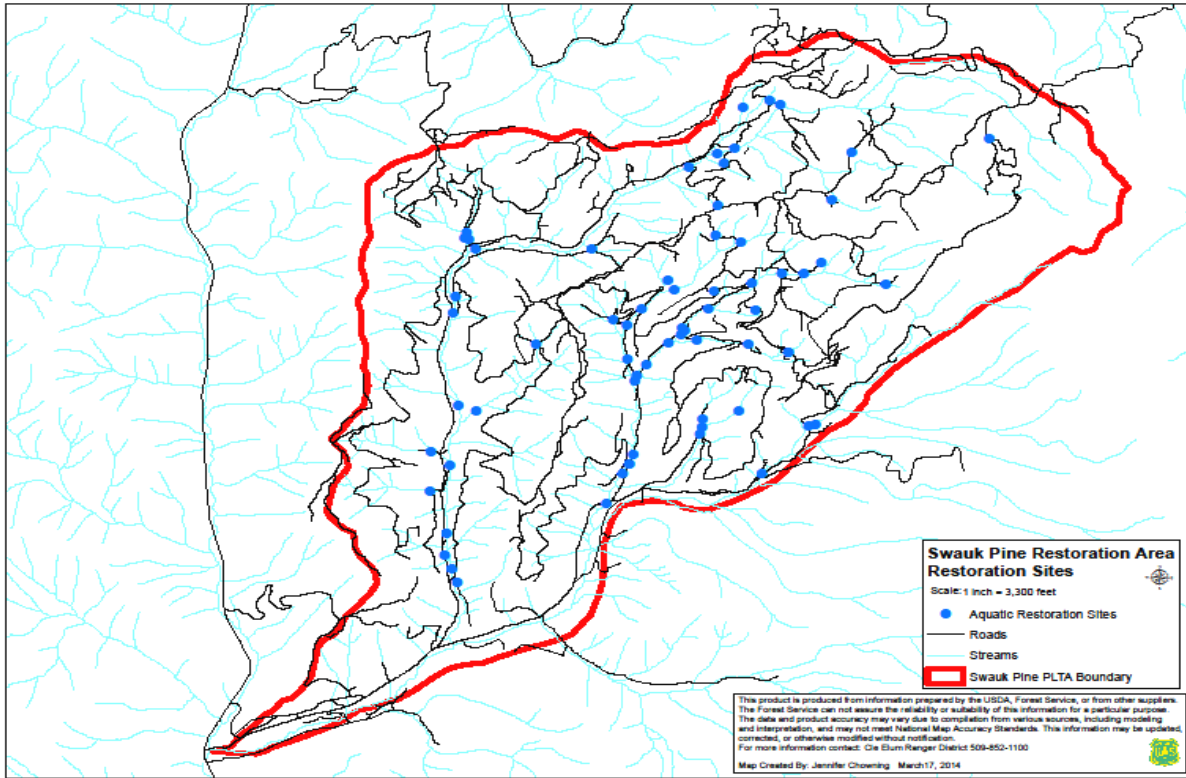
**Heavy Treatment Stands-** These stands would be heavily thinned to 20-30% crown closure. Fuels would be treated with light creeping ground fire or hand piling and burning, or jackpot burning. Prey base structures such as mistletoe would be managed for retention.

### ***Aquatic Restoration Actions***

Aquatic restoration work is proposed at 66 locations in the Project Area (Fig. 7). Table 2 (below) outlines the proposed hydrologic and aquatic habitat restoration projects.

**Table 1. Proposed Aquatic Restoration Actions.**

Restoration Category/Objective	Actions
Riparian, stream/wetland restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eliminate or modify portions of dispersed recreation sites within riparian areas, to restore functions of riparian soils and vegetation</li><li>• Large woody debris (LWD) replenishment in streams and floodplains to restore channel condition and aquatic habitat (see also restoring water storage below)</li></ul>
Restoring water storage by restoring connections between streams/wetlands and floodplains, and natural flow paths.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Excavating and decompacting fill associated with skidtails and railroad beds which are barriers to overbank flood dispersion</li><li>• Redesign roads located adjacent to or crossing streams, wetlands, and groundwater seepage areas; matching road designs to hydrologic features; achieving flow dispersion through the road prism to restore natural flowpaths and streambed elevations in wet meadows and floodplains.</li><li>• Disconnect road runoff (ditch and surface) from delivery to stream crossing culverts, using ditch relief and road surface drainage features.</li></ul>
Restoring Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) in streams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Replace stream crossing culverts or modify existing crossings to provide fish and aquatic species passage through roads</li></ul>
Reduce road/motorized trails miles affecting hydrology and aquatic habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Restore effective road closures, including installation of gates, physical barriers, and revegetation</li><li>• Decommissioning roads and trails in riparian areas (system and unauthorized) to restore wetland, stream and floodplain functions.</li><li>• Road/trail improvement &amp; reconstruction, including drainage improvement</li><li>• Relocating portions of roads/4WD trails to eliminate sediment and hydrology impacts; constructing new roads/trails in sustainable locations and decommission old route.</li></ul>



**Figure 7. Aquatic Restoration Sites**

### ***Proposed Changes to the Transportation System***

The proposed action includes changes to the Forest Service road and trail system, beyond road repairs and reconstruction needed for timber sale access and haul (Table 3 and Fig. 8). Forest Service System roads targeted for change in management level (closure and long-term storage) or decommissioning were based on an interdisciplinary travel analysis of all existing roads in the planning area, and the IDTs assessment of current and future access needs for vegetation management. Table 4 lists individual roads proposed for closure or decommissioning

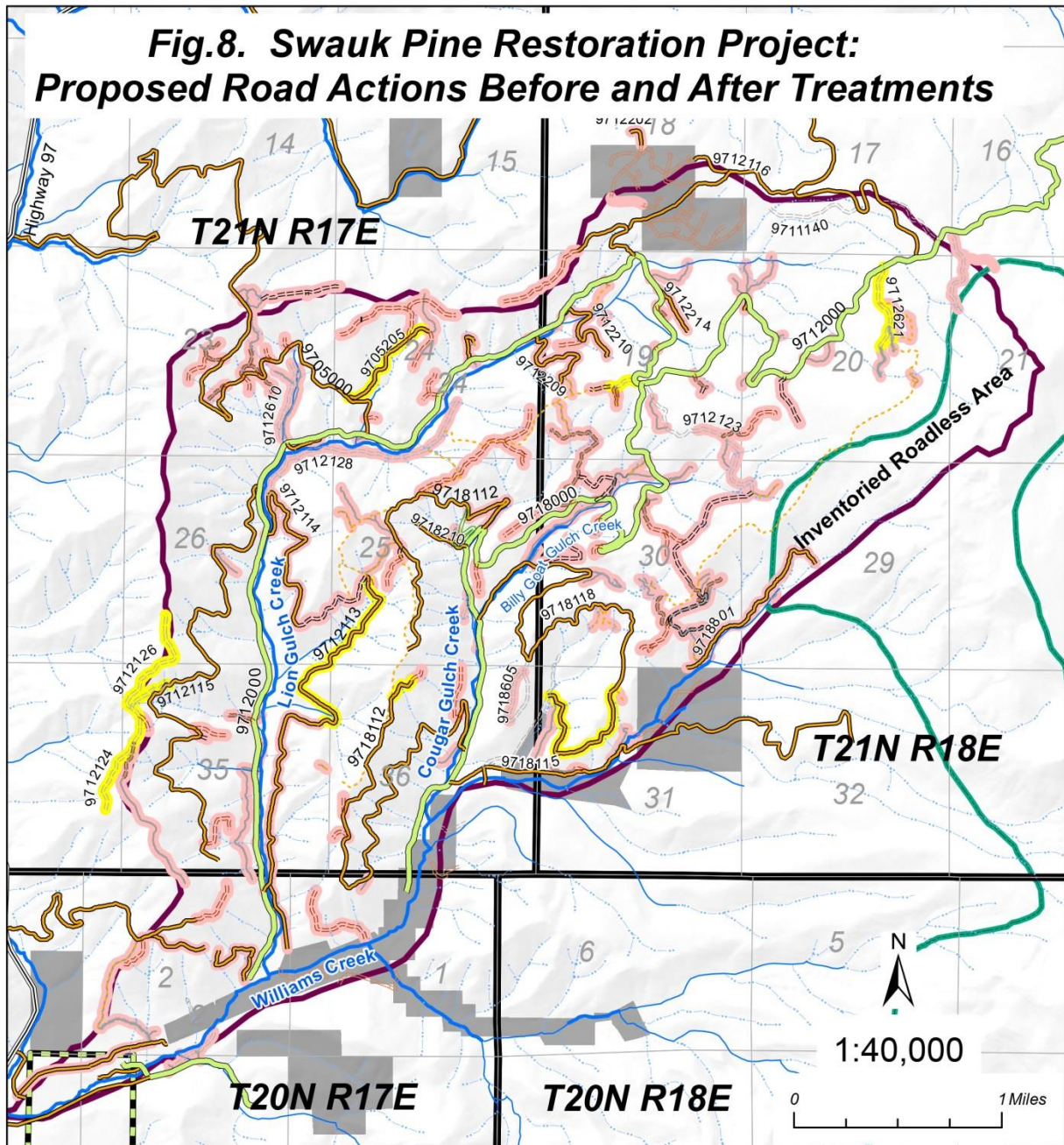
Unauthorized Roads and trails were also mapped as part of this project. As funding becomes available, they will be decommissioned to standards listed in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Roads Policy.

**Table 3. Post project road status.**

<b>Road Category</b>	<b>Approximate Miles Post Treatment</b>
Relocation/Construction	.39
Reconstructed FS System Roads	31.6
No Change	40.1
Change in Maintenance Level	4.8
Decommissioning or Restore to a Natural State	23.3
PVT	4.7



**Fig.8. Swauk Pine Restoration Project:  
Proposed Road Actions Before and After Treatments**



**Road Actions Needed for Harvest**

=== Design Temp

--- Temp Road

— Road Relocation/Construction

**Post-treatment Road Actions**

— FS Rd - Put in long-term storage (No USE)

— Decommission or Return to Natural State

**FS Roads: Current Status**

— ML1 - Closed Road

— ML2 - High Clearance Vehicles

— ML3 - Suitable for Passenger Cars

— Non-system road

— Private

— Trail

— Cle Elum Ranger District Boundary

— Lion Rock Inventoried Roadless Area

— Swauk Pine Landscape Treatment Area

— Private Land

Table 4. Proposed changes to the Forest Road system, by Road ID. ML stands for maintenance level. For some roads, only a portion of the road would be changed. See Fig. 7.

Type of change / Road No.	Miles
Change in ML	4.8
9705205	0.6
9712113	1.1
9712124	0.8
9712126	0.6
9712619	0.1
9712621	0.4
9712622	0.1
9718112	0.1
9718118	0.9
Decommission	23.3
9700162	0.3
9705000-3.20L-1	0.3
9705000-3.25L-2	0.0
9705000-4.53L-1	0.2

9712116-0.72R-1	0.2
9712120	0.5
9712123	0.5
9712123-0.08R-1	0.2
9712123-0.61R-1	0.1
9712124-0.46L-1	0.7
9712125	0.3
9712125-0.07R-1	0.0
9712127	0.7
9712128	1.2
9712202	0.1
9712204	0.3
9712205	0.1
9712207	0.2
9712209	0.6
9712210	0.6
9712214	0.3
9712215	0.1
9712610	0.4
9712610-0.32L-1	0.1
9712614	0.1
9712621	0.2

9712000-0.70R-1	0.0
9712000-1.04L-1	0.7
9712000-1.05R-1	0.1
9712000-1.29R-1	0.0
9712000-3.02L-1	0.4
9712000-3.46R-1	0.0
9712000-4.21R-2	0.0
9712000-4.65R-1	0.0
9712000-5.59L-1	0.3
9712000-6.47L-1	0.1
9712000-6.50L-1	0.2
9712000-6.50L-2	0.2
9712000-6.75L-1	0.0
9712000-6.99R-1	0.1
9712000-8.22R-1	0.2
9712113	1.1
9712113-2.24L-1	0.2
9712113-2.65R-1	0.0
9712113-2.69R-1	0.2
9712114	1.1
9712115-0.60L-1	0.2
9712622	0.0
9712624	0.4
9712624-0.09L-1	0.2
9718000-0.95L-1	0.1
9718000-1.01L-1	0.1
9718000-1.38L-10	0.1
9718000-1.38L-13	0.1
9718000-1.38L-16	0.1
9718000-1.38L-2	0.1
9718000-1.38L-3	0.0
9718000-1.38L-9	0.1
9718000-1.39L-1	0.0
9718000-1.87R-1	0.2
9718000-1.87R-2	0.1
9718000-3.73R-1	0.1
9718000-4.13R-1	0.2
9718000-4.13R-2	0.1
9718112-0.03L-1	0.2
9718112-0.88L-2	0.1
9718115-0.66L-1	0.0
9718115-0.66L-2	0.0
9718115-0.90L-1	0.2



9718115-1.00L-1	0.1
9718118-0.50L-1	0.5
9718118-0.53L-1	0.1
9718118-1.00L-1	0.2
9718118-1.00L-2	0.1
9718118-3.35L-1	0.3
9718210-0.07R-1	0.1
9718605	0.3
9718615	0.2
9718801	1.0
9718801-0.27R-1	0.1

9718801-0.33L-1	0.2
9718801-0.33R-2	0.1
9726000-0.83-L1	0.0
9726603	0.3
9726603-0.04L-1	0.0
9726603-0.11L-2	0.0
9726603-0.17R-1	0.0
Oblit Prop - 9718112	0.5
(blank)	3.1

### ***How to Provide Comments on the Proposed Action***

We want to hear your concerns and thoughts regarding any or all of the proposed actions. Your comments will be considered by the IDT and the issues you raise may be used to modify the proposed action, or to develop alternatives to the proposed action.

Effects from the proposed action and any alternatives we develop will be disclosed in a Preliminary Environmental Assessment (EA). There will be an opportunity for public comment following publication of the preliminary EA.

This project is a non-HFRA project subject to Notice, Comment, and Objection under 36 CFR 218, and subparts A and B may apply. Only those who reply to this scoping notice, or who submit timely and specific comments during the official comment period following publication of a preliminary EA, will be eligible to file an objection. For objection eligibility, each individual or representative from organizations submitting comments must either sign the comments or verify their identity upon request.

Comments received in response to this scoping notice, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on the proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to object under 36 CFR 218.

Please submit scoping comments by May 1, 2014 to District Ranger, c/o John Agar, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, in one of the following ways:

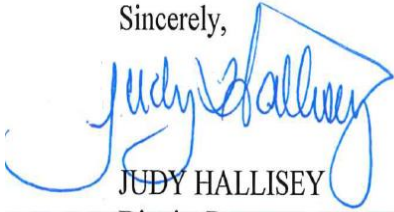
Submit electronic comments to [FS-comments-pacificnorthwest-wenatchee-cleelum](mailto:FS-comments-pacificnorthwest-wenatchee-cleelum). Please write "Scoping for Swauk Pine Restoration" in the subject line. Those submitting electronic comments must do so only to this e-mail address and must either submit comments as part of the e-mail message or as an attachment only in one of the following three formats: Microsoft Word, rich text format (rtf), or Adobe Portable Document format (pdf). E-mails submitted to other e-mail addresses or in other formats than those listed here or containing viruses will be rejected. It is the responsibility of all individuals and organizations to ensure their comments are received in a timely manner. For electronically mailed comments, the sender should normally receive an automated electronic acknowledgement from the agency as confirmation of receipt. If the sender does not receive an automated acknowledgement of the receipt of the comments, it is the sender's responsibility to ensure timely receipt by other means.

Submit hard copy letters by U.S. Mail or hand delivery to the Cle Elum Ranger Station, 803 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Cle Elum, WA 98922. Hand-delivered comments must be made during regular office hours (8:00am to 12:30pm, and 1:15pm to 4:00pm, Monday through Friday except legal holidays).

If you would like to continue to receive updates about this project or would like more information, please contact John Agar at 509-852-1061. If we do not hear from you during the scoping period, you will not receive future notifications about this project.

Thank you for your interest in the Swauk Pine Restoration Project, and the National Forest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Judy Hallisey", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

JUDY HALLISEY

District Ranger